

to increase digital and media literacy as well as cyber-hygiene among veterans.

(c) **PROGRAM REQUIRED.**—The Secretary shall establish a program to promote digital citizenship and media literacy, through which the Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities to enable those eligible entities to carry out the activities described in subsection (e).

(d) **APPLICATION.**—An eligible entity seeking a grant under the program required by subsection (c) shall submit to the Secretary an application therefor at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including, at a minimum the following:

(1) A description of the activities the eligible entity intends to carry out with the grant funds.

(2) An estimate of the costs associated with such activities.

(3) Such other information and assurances as the Secretary may require.

(e) **ACTIVITIES.**—An eligible entity shall use the amount of a grant awarded under the program required by subsection (c) to carry out one or more of the following activities to improve cyber-hygiene and increase digital and media literacy among veterans:

(1) Develop competencies in cyber-hygiene.

(2) Develop media literacy and digital citizenship competencies by promoting veterans'—

(A) research and information fluency;

(B) critical thinking and problem solving skills;

(C) technology operations and concepts;

(D) information and technological literacy;

(E) concepts of media and digital representation and stereotyping;

(F) understanding of explicit and implicit media and digital messages;

(G) understanding of values and points of view that are included and excluded in media and digital content;

(H) understanding of how media and digital content may influence ideas and behaviors;

(I) understanding of the importance of obtaining information from multiple media sources and evaluating sources for quality;

(J) understanding how information on digital platforms can be altered through algorithms, editing, and augmented reality;

(K) ability to create media and digital content in civically and socially responsible ways; and

(L) understanding of influence campaigns conducted by foreign adversaries and the tactics employed by foreign adversaries for conducting influence campaigns.

(f) **REPORTING.**—

(1) **REPORTS BY GRANT RECIPIENTS.**—Each recipient of a grant under the program required by subsection (c) shall, not later than one year after the date on which the recipient first receives funds pursuant to the grant, submit to the Secretary a report describing the activities the recipient carried out using grant funds and the effectiveness of those activities.

(2) **REPORT BY THE SECRETARY.**—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary receives the last report the Secretary expects to receive under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describing the activities carried out under this section and the effectiveness of those activities.

(g) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary should—

(1) establish and maintain a list of eligible entities that receive a grant under the program required by subsection (c), and individuals designated by those eligible entities as participating individuals; and

(2) make that list available to those eligible entities and participating individuals in order to promote communication and further

exchange of information regarding sound digital citizenship and media literacy practices among recipients of grants under the program required by subsection (c).

(h) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2022.

(i) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **CYBER-HYGIENE.**—The term “cyber-hygiene” means practices and steps that users of computers and other internet connected devices take to maintain and improve online security, maintain the proper functioning of computers devices, and protect computers and devices from cyberattacks and unauthorized use.

(2) **DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP.**—The term “digital citizenship” means the ability to—

(A) safely, responsibly, and ethically use communication technologies and digital information technology tools and platforms;

(B) create and share media content using principles of social and civic responsibility and with awareness of the legal and ethical issues involved; and

(C) participate in the political, economic, social, and cultural aspects of life related to technology, communications, and the digital world by consuming and creating digital content, including media.

(3) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—The term “eligible entity” means—

(A) a civil society organization, including community groups, nongovernmental organizations, nonprofit organization, labor organizations, indigenous groups, charitable organizations, professional associations, and foundations; and

(B) congressionally chartered veterans service organizations.

(4) **MEDIA LITERACY.**—The term “media literacy” means the ability to—

(A) access relevant and accurate information through media in a variety of forms;

(B) critically analyze media content and the influences of different forms of media;

(C) evaluate the comprehensiveness, relevance, credibility, authority, and accuracy of information;

(D) make educated decisions based on information obtained from media and digital sources;

(E) operate various forms of technology and digital tools; and

(F) reflect on how the use of media and technology may affect private and public life.

(5) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

SA 4677. Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 submitted by Mr. REED and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4350, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1210. GLOBAL ELECTORAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Global Electoral Exchange Act of 2021”.

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) recent elections globally have illustrated the urgent need for the promotion and exchange of international best election prac-

tices, particularly in the areas of cybersecurity, results transmission, transparency of electoral data, election dispute resolution, and the elimination of discriminatory registration practices and other electoral irregularities;

(2) the advancement of democracy worldwide promotes United States interests, as stable democracies provide new market opportunities, improve global health outcomes, and promote economic freedom and regional security;

(3) credible elections are the cornerstone of a healthy democracy and enable all persons to exercise their basic human right to have a say in how they are governed;

(4) inclusive elections strengthen the credibility and stability of democracies more broadly;

(5) at the heart of a strong election cycle is the professionalism of the election management body and an empowered civil society;

(6) the development of local expertise via peer-to-peer learning and exchanges promotes the independence of such bodies from internal and external influence; and

(7) supporting the efforts of peoples in democratizing societies to build more representative governments in their respective countries is in the national interest of the United States.

(c) **GLOBAL ELECTORAL EXCHANGE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Global Engagement Center (referred to in this section as the “Center”) at the Department of State is authorized to establish and administer a Global Electoral Exchange Program (referred to in this section as the “Program”) to promote the utilization of sound election administration practices around the world.

(2) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of the Program shall include the promotion and exchange of international best election practices, including in the areas of—

(A) cybersecurity;

(B) the protection of election systems against influence campaigns;

(C) results transmission;

(D) transparency of electoral data;

(E) election dispute resolution;

(F) the elimination of discriminatory registration practices and electoral irregularities;

(G) inclusive and equitable promotion of candidate participation;

(H) equitable access to polling places, voter education information, and voting mechanisms (including by persons with disabilities); and

(I) other sound election administration practices.

(3) **EXCHANGE OF ELECTORAL AUTHORITIES.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Center, in consultation, as appropriate, with the United States Agency for International Development, may award grants to any United States-based organization that—

(i) is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code;

(ii) has experience in, and a primary focus on, foreign comparative election systems or subject matter expertise in the administration or integrity of such systems; and

(iii) submits an application in such form, and satisfying such requirements, as the Center may require.

(B) **TYPES OF GRANTS.**—An organization described in subparagraph (A) may receive a grant under this paragraph to design and implement programs that—

(i) bring to the United States election administrators and officials, including government officials, poll workers, civil society representatives, members of the judiciary, and others who participate in the organization and administration of public elections in a foreign country that faces challenges to

its electoral process to study election procedures in the United States for educational purposes; or

(ii) take election administrators and officials of the United States or of another country, including government officials, poll workers, civil society representatives, members of the judiciary, and others who participate in the organization and administration of public elections to another country to study and discuss election procedures in such country for educational purposes.

(C) LIMITS ON ACTIVITIES.—Activities administered under the Program may not—

(i) include observation of an election for the purposes of assessing the validity or legitimacy of that election;

(ii) facilitate any advocacy for a certain electoral result by a grantee when participating in the Program; or

(iii) be carried out without proper consultation with State and local authorities in the United States that administer elections.

(D) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Center should establish and maintain a network of Global Electoral Exchange Program alumni, to promote communication and further exchange of information regarding sound election administration practices among current and former Program participants.

(E) LIMITATION.—A recipient of a grant under the Program may only use such grant for the purpose for which such grant was awarded, unless otherwise authorized by the Center.

(F) NONDUPLICATIVE.—Grants made under this paragraph may not be duplicative of any other grants made under any other provision of law for similar or related purposes.

(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2022 through 2026 to carry out this subsection.

(d) CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter for the following 2 years, the Center shall provide a briefing to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives regarding the status of any activities carried out pursuant to subsection (c) during the preceding year, which shall include—

(1) a summary of all exchanges conducted under the Global Electoral Exchange Program, including information regarding grantees, participants, and the locations where program activities were held;

(2) a description of the criteria used to select grantees under the Global Electoral Exchange Program; and

(3) recommendations for the improvement of the Global Electoral Exchange Program in furtherance of the purpose specified in subsection (c)(2).

SA 4678. Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. BENNET) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 submitted by Mr. REED and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4350, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title X, insert the following:

SEC. _____. COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES STUDY ON OPPORTUNITIES FOR USE OF VETERANS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO PURSUE CAREERS IN OUTDOOR RECREATION.

(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the use by veterans of educational assistance provided under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pursue careers in outdoor recreation.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The study required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Identification of opportunities for veterans to use educational assistance provided under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pursue careers in outdoor recreation in the private sector and in the public sector.

(2) Identification of any difficulties with using the educational assistance provided under laws administered by the Secretary to veterans to pursue careers in outdoor recreation in the private and public sector, including trained, apprentice, assistant, and certified guides.

(3) Assessment of the availability of opportunities for careers in outdoor recreation at the following:

(A) The Department of Agriculture.

(B) The Department of the Interior.

(C) The Army Corps of Engineers.

(D) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(4) Identification of any challenges veterans may have pursuing careers in outdoor recreation at the agencies list under paragraph (3).

(5) Identification of options to increase opportunities for veterans to pursue careers in outdoor recreation at the agencies listed under paragraph (3).

(c) STAKEHOLDER PERSPECTIVES.—In conducting the study required by subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall obtain the perspectives of the outdoor recreation industry, veterans groups focusing on the outdoors, nongovernmental organizations, and other interested stakeholders.

(d) BRIEFING AND REPORT.—

(1) BRIEFING.—Not later than 240 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall provide the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a briefing on the study required by subsection (a).

(2) REPORT.—After providing the briefing required by paragraph (1), the Comptroller General shall submit to the committees described in such paragraph a report on the findings of the Comptroller General with respect to the study completed under subsection (a).

(e) OUTDOOR RECREATION DEFINED.—In this section, the term “outdoor recreation” means recreational activities undertaken for pleasure that—

(1) generally involve some level of intentional physical exertion; and

(2) occur in nature-based environments outdoors.

SA 4679. Mr. VAN HOLLEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 submitted by Mr. REED and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4350, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. TREATMENT OF HOURS WORKED UNDER A QUALIFIED TRADE-OFF TIME ARRANGEMENT.

Section 5542 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h)(1)(A) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section or section 5545b, any hours worked by a firefighter under a qualified trade-of-time arrangement shall be disregarded for purposes of any determination relating to eligibility for, or the amount of, any overtime pay under this section, including overtime pay under the Fair Labor Standards Act in accordance with subsection (c).

“(B) The Director of the Office of Personnel Management—

“(i) shall identify the situations in which a firefighter shall be deemed to have worked hours actually worked by a substituting firefighter under a qualified trade-of-time arrangement; and

“(ii) may adopt necessary policies governing the treatment of both a substituting and substituted firefighter under a qualified trade-of-time arrangement, without regard to how those firefighters would otherwise be treated under other provisions of law or regulation.

“(2) In this subsection—

“(A) the term ‘firefighter’ means an employee—

“(i) the work schedule of whom includes 24-hour duty shifts; and

“(ii) who—

“(I) is a firefighter, as defined in section 8331(21) or 8401(14);

“(II) in the case of an employee who holds a supervisory or administrative position and is subject to subchapter III of chapter 83, but who does not qualify to be considered a firefighter within the meaning of section 8331(21), would so qualify if such employee had transferred directly to such position after serving as a firefighter within the meaning of such section;

“(III) in the case of an employee who holds a supervisory or administrative position and is subject to chapter 84, but who does not qualify to be considered a firefighter within the meaning of section 8401(14), would so qualify if such employee had transferred directly to such position after performing duties described in section 8401(14)(A) and (B) for at least 3 years; and

“(IV) in the case of an employee who is not subject to subchapter III of chapter 83 or chapter 84, holds a position that the Office of Personnel Management determines would satisfy subclause (I), (II), or (III) if the employee were subject to subchapter III of chapter 83 or chapter 84; and

“(B) the term ‘qualified trade-of-time arrangement’ means an arrangement under which 2 firefighters who are subject to the supervision of the same fire chief agree, solely at their option and with the approval of the employing agency, to substitute for one another during scheduled work hours in the performance of work in the same capacity.”.

SA 4680. Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, and Mr. CRAMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 submitted by Mr. REED and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4350, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such